



New Year's Greeting

from Ambassador David C. Mulford

President Bush signs the United States-India Peaceful Atomic Energy Cooperation Act. With him are: Indian Ambassador Raminder Singh Jassal, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Congressmen Thaddeus McCotter, Gary Ackerman and Joseph Crowley; Senators Richard Lugar, Bill Frist and George Allen.

This New Year will advance a new and very productive era in the relationship between India and the United States. After decades of what some call the most unfulfilled relationship of the 20th century, our two countries have launched a true strategic partnership, making 2006 the most dynamic year in the history of U.S.-India relations. The results of this partnership will benefit the American people, the Indian people and the world—and we are poised to accelerate our pace.

Today, U.S.-India relations are experiencing dynamic growth and a vast breadth of interaction. We are cooperating in more areas than ever before—and I believe the pace and breadth of the relationship will continue to grow. People are moving between our two countries more than ever before, supported by the commitment by our Embassy and Consulates to eliminate the visa appointments backlog for Indians. Business and trade are

rising. Our scientists are charting new ways to fight disease and develop new technologies. There is a real sense of optimism, of potential, that infuses our interactions.

Recently, President George W. Bush signed legislation on peaceful nuclear cooperation between our two nations, a step that ended India's isolation from the nuclear nonproliferation mainstream and will open up tremendous opportunities for our two countries to cooperate in civil nuclear energy, in promoting global nonproliferation, and many other areas. But more importantly, if the full opening process can be completed, it will be a great step beyond decades of mistrust and doubt that had clouded our relations.

Our cooperation on civil nuclear energy is indicative of how we can work together on a complex international initiative to bring greater security to people around the world. We are also joining together to promote democracy in troubled states, to promote economic opportunity and growth for our citizens and for the world, and to seek new solutions to old energy problems, including the development of clean coal and hydrogen technologies. Our cooperation in the Asia Pacific Partnership reflects our common interest to capitalize on the dynamism of the private sector to promote economic growth and energy security while ensuring effective environmental stewardship.

Our success in these areas will not only help India become a stronger nation and a global power, but will bring tangible benefits to its citizens, such as clean and accessible energy for this country's rapidly growing economy, new technologies for farmers, new opportunities for students and solutions to major health prob-

lems like HIV-AIDS.

Today, we must look at ways to capitalize on this dynamism, energy and drive. The Boeing Corporation just delivered the first aircraft of what is India's single largest purchase ever of commercial airplanes. Major U.S. companies like IBM and Motorola are setting up manufacturing facilities in India. And Indian companies like Infosys, Ranbaxy and Tata are confidently entering the U.S. market.

We are pioneering cooperation in space and health. Our two militaries are exploring how we can ensure greater stability in key regions and trade routes to benefit global prosperity and freedom, and fight terror. And our young people, our future, are getting closer and closer on our campuses and on the Internet.

The United States and India are partners that share the most fundamental values and interests and we have much to gain by working together. Our people-to-people ties are becoming increasingly central to our overall relationship. Indian American citizens are coming into their own as a major factor in American society, business and higher education.

This partnership happened for many reasons, but above all else it rests on the foundation of what our two societies have in common. We are open, democratic, multi-ethnic and multi-religious democracies that value the rule of law, freedom of expression and economic opportunity.

As we mark the start of 2007, we should be truly proud of what we have accomplished. But we must also recognize the potential of what still lies ahead. Working together, the United States and India can be a positive force for global stability and prosperity in the 21st century.

